

H.608

An act relating to creating an Older Vermonters Act working group

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill as follows:

By striking out Sec. 3, Older Vermonters Act working group; report, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 3 to read as follows:

Sec. 3. OLDER VERMONTERS ACT WORKING GROUP; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created an Older Vermonters Act working group for the purpose of developing recommendations for an Older Vermonters Act that aligns with the federal Older Americans Act, the Vermont State Plan on Aging, and the Choices for Care program.

(b) Membership. The working group shall be composed of the following 18 members:

(1) the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living or designee;

(2) the Director of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention at the Department of Health or designee;

(3) the Commissioner of Labor or designee;

(4) the Attorney General or designee;

(5) the Executive Director of the Vermont Association of Area Agencies on Aging or designee;

(6) the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman;

(7) the Director of Vermont Associates for Training and Development or designee;

(8) a representative of the Vermont Association of Adult Day Services, appointed by the Association;

(9) a representative of home health agencies, appointed jointly by the VNAs of Vermont and Bayada Home Health Care;

(10) a representative of long-term care facilities, appointed by the Vermont Health Care Association;

(11) the Director of the Center on Aging at the University of Vermont or designee;

(12) a representative of the Vermont Association of Senior Centers and Meal Providers, appointed by the Association;

(13) the Executive Director of the Alzheimer's Association, Vermont Chapter, or designee;

(14) the Director of Support and Services at Home or designee;

(15) two older Vermonters from different regions of the State, appointed by the Advisory Board established by 33 V.S.A. § 505; and

(16) two family caregivers of older Vermonters, one of whom is a family member of an older Vermonter and one of whom is an informal provider of in-home and community care, appointed by the Advisory Board established by 33 V.S.A. § 505.

(c) Powers and duties. The working group, in consultation with elder care mental health clinicians, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, the Community of Vermont Elders, AARP Vermont, the Elder Law Project at Vermont Legal Aid, the Vermont Public Transportation Association, and other interested stakeholders, shall develop recommendations on the following:

(1) the authority and responsibilities of the Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living as a State Unit on Aging;

(2) the authority and responsibilities of the Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living with respect to the management, approval, and oversight of services provided to eligible older Vermonters through the Choices for Care program;

(3) the roles and responsibilities of the Area Agencies on Aging as the designated regional planning organizations serving older Vermonters and family caregivers;

(4) the roles and responsibilities of the network of providers of services to older Vermonters and family caregivers;

(5) a description of a comprehensive and coordinated system of services and supports for older Vermonters and family caregivers as envisioned by the Older Americans Act and the Choices for Care program, including supportive services, nutrition services, health promotion and disease prevention services, family caregiver services, employment services, and protective services;

(6) a description of how such a system would be coordinated across State agencies, provider networks, and geographic regions;

(7) how to ensure that such a system would target those in greatest economic and social need;

(8) ways to encourage and educate older Vermonters to continue in the workforce and to become or remain involved in their communities through participation in volunteer activities and opportunities for civic engagement; and

(9) ways to educate employers about the value of the older Vermonter talent cohort and the benefits of maintaining a multigenerational workforce, as well as identification of models that may be replicated across sectors and industries.

(d) Assistance. The working group shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living.

(e) Report. On or before December 1, 2019, the working group shall submit its recommendations to the House Committee on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living or designee shall chair the working group and shall call the first meeting of the working group, which shall occur on or before September 15, 2018.

(2) The working group shall meet as often as reasonably necessary to develop its recommendations, but not less frequently than once every two months.

(3) The working group shall cease to exist upon submitting its report to the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2019.

(g) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the working group who are not employees of the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their attendance at meetings of the working group shall be entitled to reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010. Reimbursement payments to these members shall be made from monies appropriated to the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living.